

HOUSE BILL 1779

By Goins

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, to
enact the "Tennessee Stolen Valor Act".

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 14, Part 1, is amended by
adding the following as a new section:

(a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Tennessee Stolen
Valor Act".

(b) A person commits the offense of stolen valor when the person, with the intent
to obtain money, property, or another benefit to which the person is not otherwise
entitled:

(1) Knowingly and fraudulently represents that the person is an active
member or veteran of:

(A) The United States air force;

(B) The United States army;

(C) The United States coast guard;

(D) The United States marines;

(E) The United States navy;

(F) The national guard; or

(G) A reserve component of the armed forces of the United
States;

(2) Uses a military identification the person knows to be falsified; or

(3) Fraudulently represents to another that the person is the recipient of a military award, decoration, medal, ribbon, badge, or tab the person has not received or earned.

(c)

(1)

(A) A violation of this section shall be punished as theft pursuant to § 39-14-105 and graded according to the value of money, property, or other benefits fraudulently obtained.

(B) In addition to any other punishment that may be imposed, there shall be imposed a fine of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500). However, the fine shall not exceed the maximum fine established for the appropriate offense classification.

(2) Upon payment of the fine imposed for a violation of this section, the clerk of the sentencing court shall transmit the fine to the Tennessee department of veterans affairs. The department shall deposit the fine proceeds into a fund maintained by the department for the purpose of issuing grants to counties establishing or operating a veterans treatment court in accordance with § 16-6-104.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018, the public welfare requiring it.